

AARINSECRET

Summer 2014 #4

COVER ARTIST

Penguin Frontier

FEATURING

ARTISTS

Black Monkey Pro
Penguin Frontier
Aphin

COSPLAYERS

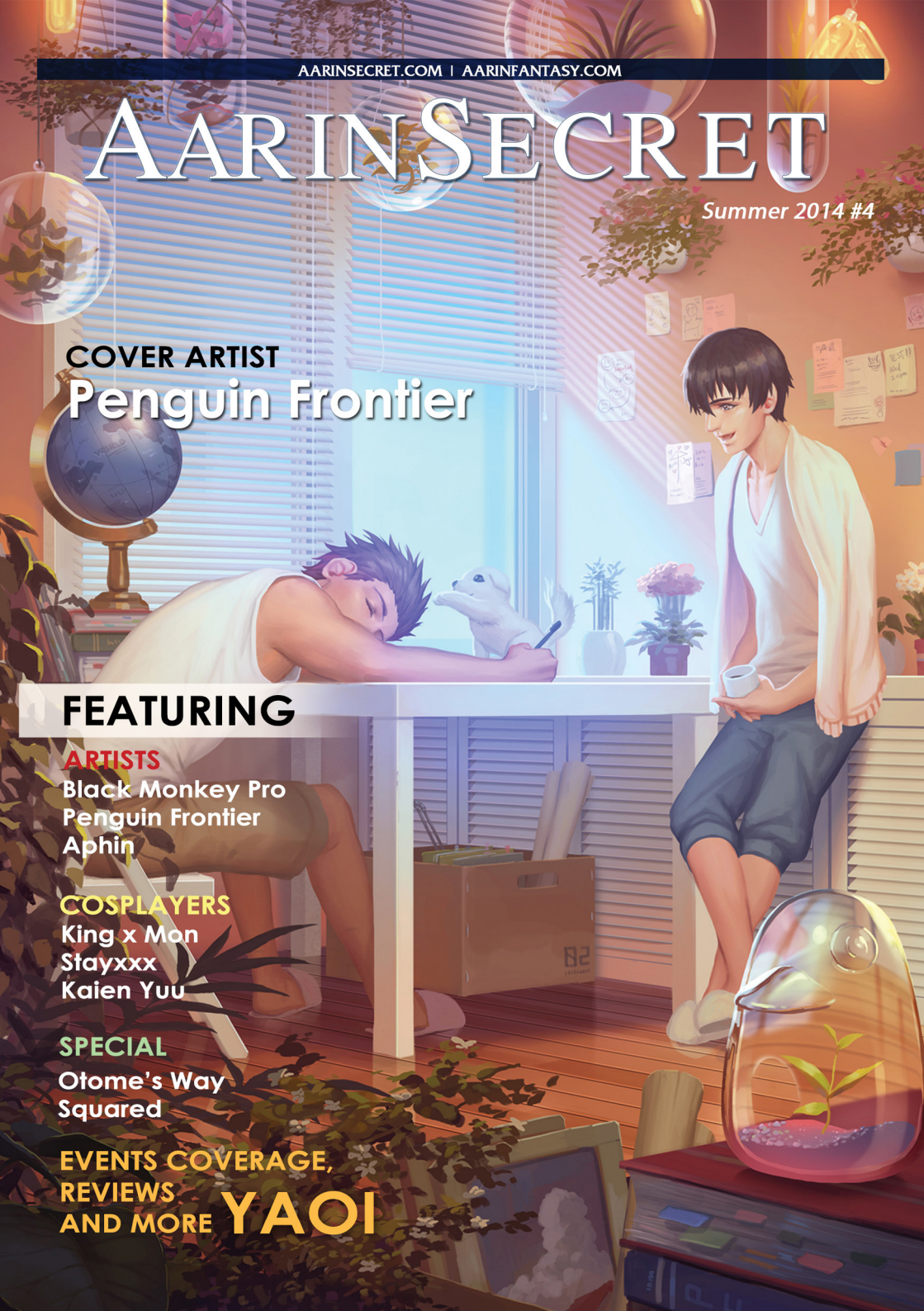
King x Mon
Stayxxx
Kaien Yuu

SPECIAL

Otome's Way
Squared

EVENTS COVERAGE,
REVIEWS
AND MORE

YAOI





Here we go again!

Another year has gone by since issue #3, and I've had the pleasure of meeting many interesting people while attending events, not only in Malaysia but in Australia as well. It's been a blessing to get to know so many new faces and interact with BL fans from different parts of the world.

It was also truly an honour to be able to talk to and interview a few established names and some up-and-coming artists, international cosplayers, and even a BL short film director. Therefore, this magazine will feature articles about them and some event coverage. There are some lovely reviews contributed by various BL fans as well which I believe will give you some good insight or recommendations of the reviewed titles.

The amount of support I've received for this magazine has been tremendous. The magazine was put together by just three people, what we call the AarinFantasy Media Team. This experience has been awesome – to travel and work with a great companion who knows and understands how to capture good photographs and exactly what I want. This person taught me a lot and continuously gives me a confidence boost when I need it as I know I'm lacking in the communication or social department.

A lot of people, and especially AarinFantasy forum members, never stopped encouraging me and showing support for the magazine. And despite the decline of activities in the forum due to various reasons that include the lack of BL anime and the rise of more informative and fast-paced social media, most of you kept on telling me to carry on. So here we are, and with lots of thanks to everyone, we are able to pop out a new magazine release this time, now in its fourth edition. I hope it is an improvement over the last one with some very special interviews and even an exclusive artwork debut done especially for the magazine, also taking into account some of your feedback. For the tutorials, I hope it can inspire you to start or do something you've always wanted to do.

My hope is that you'll give your support to the yaoi industry as well as to the people featured in the magazine, since not all of them are able to reach out to the English BL community so easily. This is also one of the main reasons this magazine was created – to bridge this gap and let people know more about them while spreading the yaoi love!



Aarin

CONTENTS

FEATURED

Penguin Frontier	4
"Squared" Director Interview	20
Aphin's Drawing Tutorial	24
Black Monkey Pro	56

COSPLAY

King x Mon	30
Kaien Yuu	46

SPECIAL

Otome's Way	13
The Difference: Jap and Eng BL Manga	18
Top 5 Yaoi Anime	23
AarinFantasy's FAQ	54

EVENT

Sawachi Nijikai 2013	10
Animangaki 2013	16
Room 801	35
BLush Con 2014	38
Comic Fiesta 2013	41

REVIEW

Okusan no Mousouteki Nichijou	9
Castle Mango	40
Don't Be Cruel	44
Free!	45
Kimishiruya Unmei no Koi	52



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PENGUIN FRONTIER

PenguinFrontier, 23, male, is an illustrator/artist from Malaysia. He loves drawing, gaming, and watching yaoi, especially Sekai-ichi Hatsukoi. His favourite illustration softwares are Photoshop and SAI.

Q At what age did you start to draw?

I started scribbling when I was around 4-5 years old as I was inspired by the Sailor Moon anime, but after the age of 14-15, I started drawing the type of guys found in shoujo manga and eventually ended up drawing YAOI when I was 18 years old.

Q How do you describe your artwork style?

I always try to create BL artwork that involves daily stuff that happens around us that my audience can relate to. For example, a couple shopping at a market. We see a lot of straight couples doing this but not much when it comes to gay couples, especially in Asia. Other than this, I like to draw sexy men.

Q What kind of inspiration do you need to create your artwork? Which artist(s) has/have inspired you the most?

I'm inspired by a lot of different stuff, from local night market scenes to anime. There are way too many artists from DeviantART and pixiv that inspire me. If I have to pick, I'd say the animators of various anime, since it is what got me to start drawing.

Q What kind of message do you wish to send to the viewers through your art?

Treasure the people around you, be yourself, and respect the LGBT community.

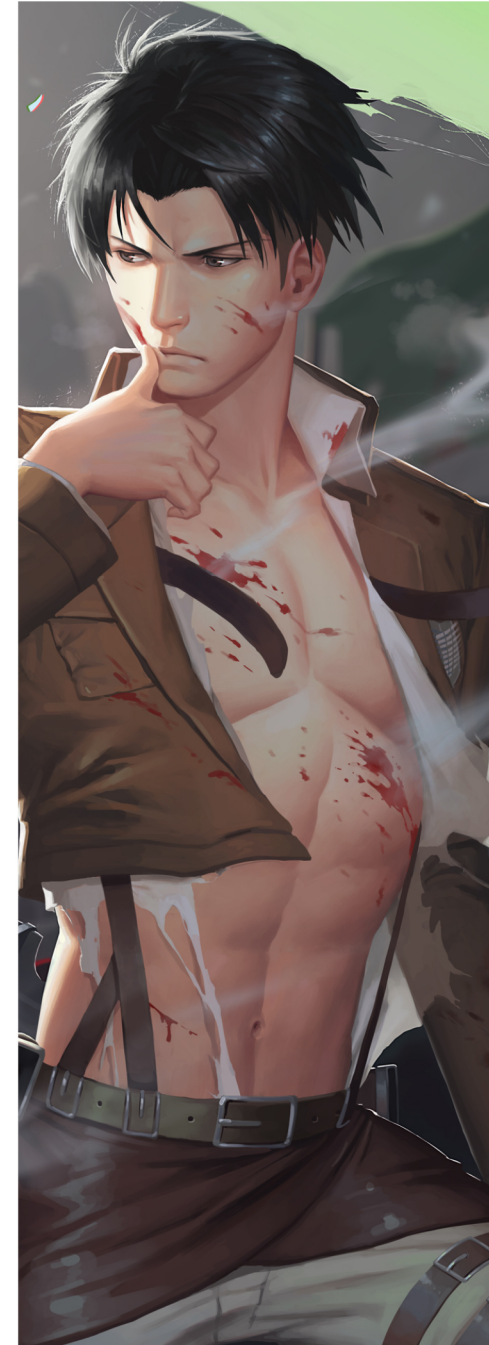
Q What would you usually do to get motivated to draw?

I browse around DeviantArt and Pixiv for motivation and inspiration.

Q What's the most memorable thing/experience so far for you as an artist?

The most memorable experience for me was when I was selling my artwork at Comic Fiesta (Malaysia), I met a lot of people with the same interests who appreciate my artwork, and one of my idols, who is also an artist, came to my booth and bought my stuff and even asked for my autograph, which meant a lot to me as he is one of the artists whose artwork motivated me a lot when I started posting on DeviantArt.

Penguin Frontier's artwork can be found at:
penguinfrontier.deviantart.com
pixiv.net/member.php?id=2400681





MANGA REVIEW:

OKU-SAN'S DAILY FANTASIES

REVIEWER: [laketica](#)MANGA ARTIST: [Takatsuki Noboru](#)PUBLISHER: [SuBLime](#)

Oku-san's Daily Fantasies is a bundle of kinky fluff (is that even possible?!) that is digitally licensed by SuBLime. The fact that Oku-san's Daily Fantasies is 180 pages and has 18 chapters may suggest that there is little substance in the manga, or that whatever substance there is develops at warp speed. Admittedly, the brevity of the manga is one of its shortcomings. However, I still recommend it to all who enjoy a quick read and a good laugh!

Plot: Each chapter is a daydream of a highly imaginative uke, usually involving his delivery man and some sort of kink, like sex toys or cosplay. The romance blossoms gradually in between daydreams, and there's even a little plot twist halfway through.

Every couple of page turns will make you smile – there are cheesy cliché phrases all over the place, like “Which do you want – the additive-free sausage, or my sausage?” Yet somehow, the cheesiness is adorable and funny, instead of predictable and annoying.

The mangaka fully utilizes the separation of reality and daydreams to mix comedy in with porn, and the result is a story that makes you laugh and makes you horny at the same time. Awkward... maybe. But so worth it, for the gang rape porn scene, BDSM dungeon, beach sex, and above all - the sea cucumber and anemone sex.

Art: The art is lovely – it reminds me of a mixture of Asou Kai's usual drawings and Nekota Yonezou's chibi drawings. No complaints about how the uke looks in an S&M rubber suit (yeah, that's right) or when he's being raped by the prison guard in front of his fellow inmate (yup, that happens as well). The mangaka really puts herself to the test by drawing a dozen different settings due to the various daydreams. The only sad part is the total censorship!

Still haven't gotten your attention? Well... alien sex should. The end.



SAWACHI NIJIKAI 2013

*May 2013 (Malaysia)
Reported by: Aarin*

I was invited to attend Sawachi Nijikai in 2013, again as a guest, after a small yet successful one held in 2012. This article may be coming really late but there isn't an actual full report of it (other than the one or two blogs I've read that were written by forum members) and I just wanted to relive the moments of the event for those who attended.

For those who don't know about the event, Sawachi Nijikai 2013 (organized by Waninoko and Will) was, and still is, the only BL event in Malaysia. It's a private event and only true BL fans were invited or expected to attend, though there were quite a handful of non-BL fans there who attended just to see what the hype was all about and also in support of the organizers since they are from the local cosplay community. A lot of people thought that I was also one of the organizers, but in fact, I was only there as a sponsor and to support the cause.

The venue was really accessible, as it was held in a big conference room of a hotel in one of the busiest areas in Kuala Lumpur. Around 400 people attended the event, making the number of attendees double that of the previous year! It was great to see that not only were there more attendees this time around, but also guests, doujin artists, and merchandise sellers, resulting in more goodies for fans to drool over and add to their collections.

Even though I had my own station to attend to for my personal mini contests and quickie meet-and-greets, I made sure to look around the venue and browse every booth. Most of them sold prints of their own BL artwork, badges, and doujinshi. Each booth was as colourful as the next! So much so, that I was a little late getting back to my own booth.



Hurrying back to my booth, I told the participants that had gathered there about the simple rules of the contest: I held up 5 bookmarks with one marked by a sticker, and whoever picked that marked one would get a prize. The prizes were various manga sponsored by SuBLime and postcards or doujins by Otome's Way. Every participant also received a "Mark My Yaoi" bookmark I designed with artwork by Ai Yusura of Otome's Way. It didn't take long for all the prizes to be given out, but as always, it was fun to meet fellow members of Aarin-Fantasy, as well as the ones who'd recently discovered the forum. I got some hugs throughout the event too, which was really sweet, as well as a few really huge glomps by some really excited girls, which I didn't mind at all!

Otome's Way had a booth set up just beside mine and were promoting their Fujoshi Guide to Japanese Volume 1 and some of their merchandise. Even though most of the representatives of Otome's Way can only speak Japanese, there weren't any difficult communication issues as quite a number of attendees knew enough Japanese to understand what Otome's Way had to offer. Otome's Way's English representative, Yumiko Akeba, and producer, Heyta Azuma, also introduced their company and products during a stage presentation. As Heyta used to be a TV personality, a comedian in fact, he was able to capture a lot of attention among the audience even though I believe half of the crowd could not fully understand what he was saying, yet his presence was nevertheless interesting and entertaining. Their artist, Ai Yusura, was there to give live demonstrations of her artwork at their booth and many were impressed by the pretty boys she drew on some coaster boards.





This time around, I was able to meet actual BL artists, unlike the previous year. I met the much talked about Black Monkey Pro and got to know Penguin Frontier, both of whom draw really awesome hardcore yaoi characters! I also got the chance to meet aspiring artists such as Vien, Nururu, Syazana, Crystal, Han Su Ying, Dark, Sue Anne, Lynling, and a few others whose names I might have missed out. All of them have very distinct styles and approaches in their BL characters and concepts even though most of their drawings were only fanart.

There was always some sort of activity happening at any one time; photo-taking of or with cosplayers, the buying or selling of merchandise, fans meeting for the first time or catching up with fellow fans. Some were busy watching performances while others were participating in live contests held just for the event. The room was buzzing and overflowing with so much energy, there wasn't enough time to digest everything properly. Perhaps a short breather in-between would be a good addition for future events.

Let's not forget the Butler Café, where guys in costumes served light snacks and beverages. While I was unable to experience their service, I heard that they did a good job throughout the event. Some of them even went on stage during the final stage performance showdown between pairings and were given special scenarios to act out for the audiences' pleasure, which focused on BL interaction and scenarios to be precise. The performances made a lot of fangirls scream their lungs out (I even recall seeing a guy fanboying along with them) and everyone was on their feet, trying to catch a better glimpse whenever one of the performers lay on the floor in the absence of an elevated 'stage'. It got extremely hot at that point, and I mean it both literally and physically, due to the large number of people in the hall. The crowd got so excited the whole room became slightly too warm for comfort, even with the air-conditioning on full blast. I must say, it was truly one HOT event!



Schoolboys & kissing:

Photo & written by: Otome's Way



A tasty visit to the BL café in Ikebukuro!



In March, Otome's Way members made a trip to the famous BL café, located in Ikebukuro close to Otome Road. At the BL café, or Ikebukuro BL Academy for Men, boys dressed in school uniforms bring the giggling customers all kinds of BL-themed drinks, food, and dessert, and make sure to stop by each table for a leisurely and suggestive chat about the latest BL manga, mangaka, trends, and anything else. And if you pay extra, the boys will turn their attention from you to each other...

We had a great time discussing everything BL with the surprisingly well-informed schoolboy-waiters. As new patrons, we were enrolled in the academy as first-years and enjoyed receiving attention from other first-years as well as second-years, third-years, and even a teacher. The café felt cozy, like a school library, and the boys working there were fun and friendly.

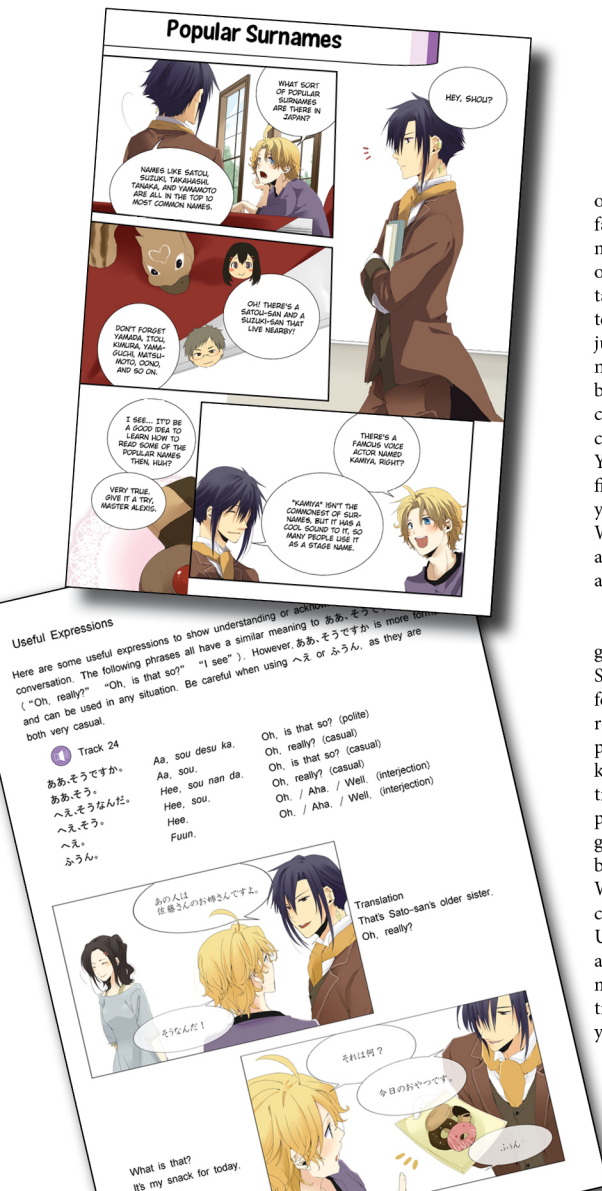
We were lucky enough to attend with Yuzuyu, author of Otome's Way titles *So What If I Misunderstood?!* and *Uragoi: Buried Love*, who has turned our exciting experience into a fun manga report for you to read. We know a lot of BL fans would love to visit this café but aren't able to, so we hope you can read the report and feel like you're there. The first few pages are free, so please check them out.

The next weekend, we went to the popular butler café Swallowtail, also in Ikebukuro, and Yuzuyu has created a manga report of that time as well. Don't miss it!

Read full story at: otomesway.com

Let's meet Alexis and Shou in A Fujoshi's Guide to Japanese!

Photo & written by: Otome's Way



Have you ever wished you could understand Japanese and watch anime or read comics in the original language to feel the fragrance? There are so many fabulous BL comics, novels and anime out there but not many of them are translated in English, not to mention other languages. However, studying a foreign language takes a lot of time and energy, and language textbooks tend to be dry or sleep-inducing. Moreover, Japanese is just way too difficult! Well, yes, many traditional Japanese study materials are out-dated and old-fashioned, but what if you could study with the help from a cute BL couple? Are you familiar with Alexis and Shou from Welcome to Halliwell Hotel, a free web comic series drawn by Yusura Ai? If not, just head over to our Otome's Way official website (<http://www.otomesway.com/slide/>) where you can enjoy various free web comics and novel series. Welcome to Halliwell Hotel is a classic BL story of Alexis, a pretty American high school boy and his gorgeous Japanese butler, Shou.

A Fujoshi's Guide to Japanese is a fun, flirty study guide with an added BL flair! In this series, Alexis and Shou will tutor you in studying Japanese. Yes, it's the perfect guide for fujoshis and fudanshis! The first volume, released in May 2013, introduced the basics of Japanese pronunciation and writing – including the hiragana and katakana syllabaries – as well as greetings, self-introductions, and counting. As a digital release, it comes complete with interactive charts, moving images, and audio guidance. It's available on Tigris Libra site (https://tigrislibra.com/us/item.php?ITEM_ID=19). Now we at Otome's Way have released the higher level, Volume 2, which includes more vocabulary, grammar, and kanji characters! Unlike the majority of the Japanese teaching material available now, A Fujoshi's Guide to Japanese takes a very modern, practical approach to Japanese, including an introduction to informal/standard sentence structure. Have you ever thought, "Wait! They don't



speak like that in BL anime or drama CDs!" when listening to textbook conversations? Most Japanese textbooks focus too much on the formal side of the language, which often makes you frustrated. So we decided to produce something enjoyable and practical for the learners.

In volume 2, the colloquial speech pattern (or "da form") will be covered early on along with the standard formal speech and honorific forms. This approach is meant to help learners that watch Japanese anime, film, or TV dramas as a form of language listening practice. Nothing is more important than listening to and picking up on native, naturally spoken dialects and sentence flow when learning a second language. Fujoshi's Guide 2 aims to help Japanese enthusiasts by laying down a foundation for them to understand what they're reading and watching in their everyday life by describing common verb forms and updated vocabulary that people really want to know.

One of the best features of this study series is the authentic audio recording. All the recordings of the textbook conversations, listening sections, and vocabulary lessons are performed by rising young Seiyuus in Japan. Nihashi Kiyoto plays the role of Alexis. Takahashi Tōru does Shou, and Taniguchi Yuu plays the role of Daisuke, a friend of Alexis'. We did the recording session on April 8, at Victor Studio in Tokyo. It was very exciting to actually see the voice actors saying "I love you," "I want to be with you forever" to each other! Classic pick up lines are also included in the audio recording. We taped lot of footage videos during the recording session, and some of them are posted on our official YOU TUBE channel and other SNS sites. And there's a special message from the Seiyuus for those who buy A Fujoshi's Guide to Japanese 2. It's a bonus movie only for the purchasers. So hurry to our Otome's Way official site to check out the material!

otomesway.com



ANIMANGAKI

August 2013 (Malaysia)
Reported by: Aarin



Toonikun's work at AMG 2013. The artist emphasizes mainstream characters.

Animangaki is one of the few annual events for anime, comics, and games (ACG) in Malaysia. I was interested in visiting this two-day event mainly due to the recommendations by some regular ACG event goers and also to check it out to see if there's any BL/yaoi stuff to report on after finding out that Otome's Way would be there too. Reigan, an Animangaki staffer, was friendly and handled my access to the event very efficiently.

Aside from the Fujoshi Guide to Japanese Volume 1 that Otome's Way had been promoting the whole year long, they also debuted some interesting merchandise like character bookmarks, wind chimes, and hand fans. Apart from Otome's Way's obvious BL booth, there were a few artists among the long booth tables who drew BL as well. Not only that, there were even yuri artworks in sight too. I chatted with some artists that I had not met before as some of their artwork had hints of BL in it, but it seems that they are not really BL fans. It turns out that some artists just draw it for the fanservice or just because it looks beautiful. It was unfortunate though, when I returned for Day 2 of the event to enquire more about their details and artwork, their booths were no longer there because some were only there for Day 1.

There was a big stage that had live band performances and art demonstrations, with songs and energetic emcees entertaining the people in the venue almost the whole time. While walking around looking at booths, I bumped into some people who recognized me and we took pictures together. They told me about some cosplayers who were dressed up as BL characters, like a pair who cosplayed Ai no Kusabi's Iason and Riki. Sadly, though, the only BL cosplayer I was able to see was someone dressed up as Yukina from Sekai-ichi Hatsukoi.

There was a special booth that sold some original second-hand BL manga and random items donated by others to fund a future BL project. I contributed a new copy of the English manga version of "Only the Ring Finger Knows" to the cause, and was glad that someone bought it. I wished them all the best with their project.

All in all, there weren't a lot of BL sightings except for the obvious few, but I just wanted to let everyone know that Animangaki is still a growing event and the one I attended was quite nicely organized from my point of view.



▲ "Yaoi" badges from Han Su Ying that every BL fan would like to have.

▼ Yukina cosplay from Sekaiichi Hatsukoi.



▼ One of the top 3 winners of Animangaki 2011, member of Harmonia ACG group, and also a BL fan, Leena performs on stage.



THE DIFFERENCE:

A Fujoshi's look at the world of Japanese BL vis-a-vis the English BL scene

By Khursten Santos

There came a point in my fujoshi life that I didn't have enough BL in life. This was some time in the late 90s, just when the internet started to gain public access and resources related to anime and manga were not found in a repository like Wikipedia, but in various fan-sites listed in anipike. At that time, I was hungry for all things BL but given that I was living in an archipelago governed by nuns and priests, access to naughty things in English were limited and highly controlled.

So what did I do? I learned Japanese and began a life importing Japanese BL instead.

To a degree, this was probably the best decision I made as a BL fan but as times changed and access was becoming a lot easier thanks to digital prints and global licenses, is there still an advantage to raising your Japanese skills to access BL goods? Allow me to weigh in on some things we're missing out on in the world of Japanese BL.

A larger amount of reads

Perhaps the most obvious thing is the larger library of BL titles if you can read Japanese. One of the things I enjoy as a Japanese reader of BL is that I can purchase the books of my favourite authors without having to wait for an official license or rely on illegal scans. I also realised that more often than not, some of my favourite authors don't get licensed or even get fan attention. Hence, it benefits me (and the authors I support) that I purchase their books directly. In a month, more than twenty titles are published by different BL publishing houses hence you'll never run out of reads.

Recently, BL publishers have also actively published many one-shot titles online via apps such as ebookjapan, renta, and line manga. These shorts cost half the price of a regular BL title and have also become a popular platform for some authors.

A diverse amount of reads

A larger library of BL titles also means a larger set of stories to read. There are a lot of works that never make it to English and these works often have stories that are uncon-

ventional or avant garde compared to most BL stories. One of EstEm's latest work, Equus has received a lot of love and support from international fans although its equine theme makes it difficult for publishers to assess if it has a larger appeal with BL readers. As such, it might never be published in English at all. While Double Mints by Nakamura Asumiko recently got published as well, her dark, eroguro sadistic themes didn't seem to appeal to a number of readers. So while her more appealing works such as Classmates and Graduates have a higher chance of getting published, the same cannot be said with her darker earlier works such as All of J.

As a voracious reader, I love the diversity that comes with a lot of BL titles because it doesn't make me bored with the genre. The BL industry, like any other commercial entertainment industry, thrives on a system that relies on formulas and tropes that appeal to their readers. As such, many of us will end up reading quite a number of retellings of the same tropes. Sometimes, it takes the ingenuity of the artist to convince us that we're reading something new. But again, not all of this gets to be published legally in English and as such, to satiate my need to diversify my BL reads, I continue to read in Japanese.

All the cute knick knacks

One of the benefits I love of purchasing Japanese BL is it often comes with knick knacks. If you don't get a small note with the author's illustration and gratitude for buying their comic, sometimes these books are repackaged to include bookmarks, booklets, calendars, or even tote bags. Seeing these kinds of merchandise in English-published BL comics is very rare and it's kind of sad and disappointing because some of these merchandise can be really cute and adorable!



But in this day and age, does this make a difference?

I think, with a little patience, this difference becomes smaller and smaller as time goes by. For example, publishers such as Sublime and DMG have been very active in getting more BL licenses and publishing them within a year's time that the wait in-between titles doesn't feel as bad or as long as it used to be. They've also been expanding their author list and are not taking the usual set of authors and their succeeding works. They've also taken chances on riskier titles. Perhaps this is due to the growth of the international BL community as well whose tastes have changed throughout the years.

With Japanese as my third language, it is still easier to read manga in English for me hence sometimes, I don't mind the wait, especially for authors I'm trying out or are not so hot in getting.

But there are still issues on whether Japanese artists want their titles to be published in English. The likes of basso refuses to get her BL work published in English. And there are other authors like her who fear the consequences of

getting criticism from people who may not understand the cultural notions of their work. The English audience can be very vocal and powerful that it scares some authors to read the feedback from their international fans.

Sometimes, the aesthetics, particularly the original Japanese covers have such a wonderful beauty that is lost when the text is translated in English.

Perhaps it makes the most difference to my heart when I purchase a new book of my favourite author. It makes a difference when I feel the paper, touch the obi, and undress the cover to either read the cover comic or adore the inside cover.

In this case, no license promise can wait because when it comes to me and my favourite authors, I MUST HAVE THOSE TITLES NOW. And, with little argument with my head, my heart gets what it wants and when I want it. And honestly, I think that's what should matter the most to any BL fan, shouldn't it?



SQUARED

Exclusive Interview with Director HIEU TRAN



Hieu Tran
24 years old,
San Diego, California, USA

Hi, I'm Hieu. I've been alive for 24 years now. I graduated from UC San Diego in 2012 and I live in San Diego, California. I make short films that tell stories about the Asian and LGBT communities. As a kid, I could never relate to the heteronormative, Caucasian-dominated television shows and movies. And if there were any Asian and gay roles, they typically were the nerds, martial artists, or the hyper-feminine and passive. So in college, I decided to make my own short films to defy these stereotypes. Many of my shorts are on YouTube. Sometimes I get demeaning comments about my work but other times, I get really nice ones. I get true joy when a viewer sends me a message telling me how my videos have impacted them. This means my efforts are worth it. Video production excites me and every project I do is a learning experience. I currently work a day job to pay the bills and rent but my dream job is to be involved with video production 24/7. I still chase my dreams by saving enough money so I can make a short film at least once a year.

With Squared, I want to show that not all Asians fit into the stereotypes that society has constructed. However, when writing the script, I was careful not to be preachy. I wanted both Tate and Wally to be unlikable and have racist attitudes towards each other. From a third person point of view, I hope the audience can see that their constant bickering and desire to one-up each other are very childish. I left the story open ended in many areas, such as who really won the wrestling match, why Tate serves up an extra plate, and why Wally leaves Tate a

note. I chose to show an interracial relationship because I see many interracial couples in my daily life but usually not on screen. I see interracial relationships as something beautiful - two people who are able to share and learn about each other's cultures. However, I see a problem when one objectifies or manipulates the other.

Squared is my first time shooting in RAW, having support from so many people, and my first post-college production. Squared would not have been possible without the tremendous support from Executive Producers and Associate Producers, too many to name. A special thanks to Brett Serwalt for letting me film at his beautiful and vibrant Obelisk Shoppe and Michael Mack for hosting the delicious Production Wrap Up

Dinner. Thank you to Kevin Tan for believing in me and helping me find the perfect soundtrack. Thank you to my extraordinary and hard working crew: Johnathan Nguyen, Mingzhao Dong, Victor Shiu, Anni Ma, and Shawn Lee. And of course, a thousand thank yous to Yamil Jaiman (who had his first gay kiss on screen) and Ethan Le Phong for bringing Tate and Wally to life.

Q How did the title "Squared" come about?

Squared was inspired by a lot of racist experiences my friends and I had. I came to the US from Vietnam when I was four years old in 1993. Growing up, people made fun of the way my eyes looked and my broken English. And from my dating experiences, I was bothered when guys called me their "Geisha" and other derogatory terms. I also often hear people ask gay couples, "Who's the woman in the relationship?" and point to the Asian guy. Society often objectifies Asians, especially gay Asians, and view them as submissive, feminine, and passive. With Squared, I want to show that not all Asians fit into the stereotypes that society has constructed.

Q What came to mind when you were presented with the script the first time?

I wrote the script for Squared. It took about 15 revisions before I was happy with the final draft. The first few drafts I wrote showed the Caucasian guy as the racist villain and the Asian guy as the hero. I decided to be less biased and made both

characters racist. Also, since the word, "Asian," is an umbrella term, I wanted to give the character Wally more of an identity. I decided to make him Vietnamese.

Q What challenges did you face in directing this film?

The best part of directing the film was the actors and crew. My actors were very open-minded and they brought the characters of Tate and Wally to life. I also enjoyed working with my crew because we have worked together in the past. I trusted their abilities and I always keep learning so much from them.

The most difficult part of shooting Squared was the location and camera. We shot in my condo, which has all glass windows. We did our best to hide reflections. Also, we shot on a Canon 5D Mark III, which we hacked to shoot in RAW. RAW allowed us to color correct and capture more details but the downside was we could not preview what we recorded on the camera. The footage turned out to be amazing in post-production, but we had to throw out a lot of clips because of discontinuity.



Q Is your main concern to clear the stereotypes that the society holds regarding the subject, especially since society usually disrespects the ones who become the bottom and degrades them?

The message of the story is that regardless of looks, culture, race, etc. - we are all human beings. When two people sit down and talk to each other, they get to know one another. And with that, a friendship, or even a relationship, can emerge.

Q What reaction do you hope to get from the people who watch the movie?

I hope people laugh. The story is a bit serious but I wanted people to enjoy watching it.

Q Do you think that the type of films you make could be considered as art or just mere entertainment?

I would say my films are both art and entertainment. When I write, I try to tell a story that people can relate to and laugh about. When I am on set, I love to play around with pans and shots during production and experiment with colors and edits during post production.



Q Stereotyping aside, how do you think a couple should determine who should top/bottom?

I think the determination of who would top and bottom should be between the couple. There should be no labels, stereotypes, and no objectification of one another - being intimate with someone is a beautiful thing and there should be no boundaries.

Watch it at: <http://www.squaredfilm.com/>



TOP Yaoi 5 ANIME

Based on poll results from AF forum



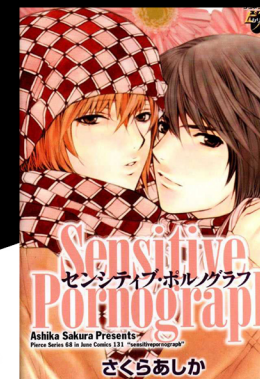
1 Junjou Romantica/ Sekai Ichi Hatsukoi

Everyone loves the bits of fluff when it comes to these two anime. Various pairings and different scenarios have viewers rooting for their favourite couples with their relatable situations and characters. The only downside is that first-time viewers will most likely get confused by the characters due to their similar character designs.



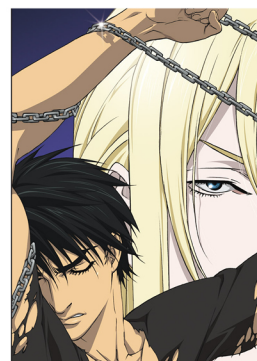
2 ViewFinder

Yamane Ayano's work may not be an actual anime but an animix instead, but you can't deny the fact that people still love it. We do wish they'd made it into an actual anime though because who wouldn't want to see Asami and Takaba in all their yummy glory, be it their fluid movements or their playful actions.



3 Sensitive Pornograph

Still the most hardcore, explicit, and uncensored version of any yaoi anime to date. The storylines of both chapters in this anime are simple and straight forward yet engaging.



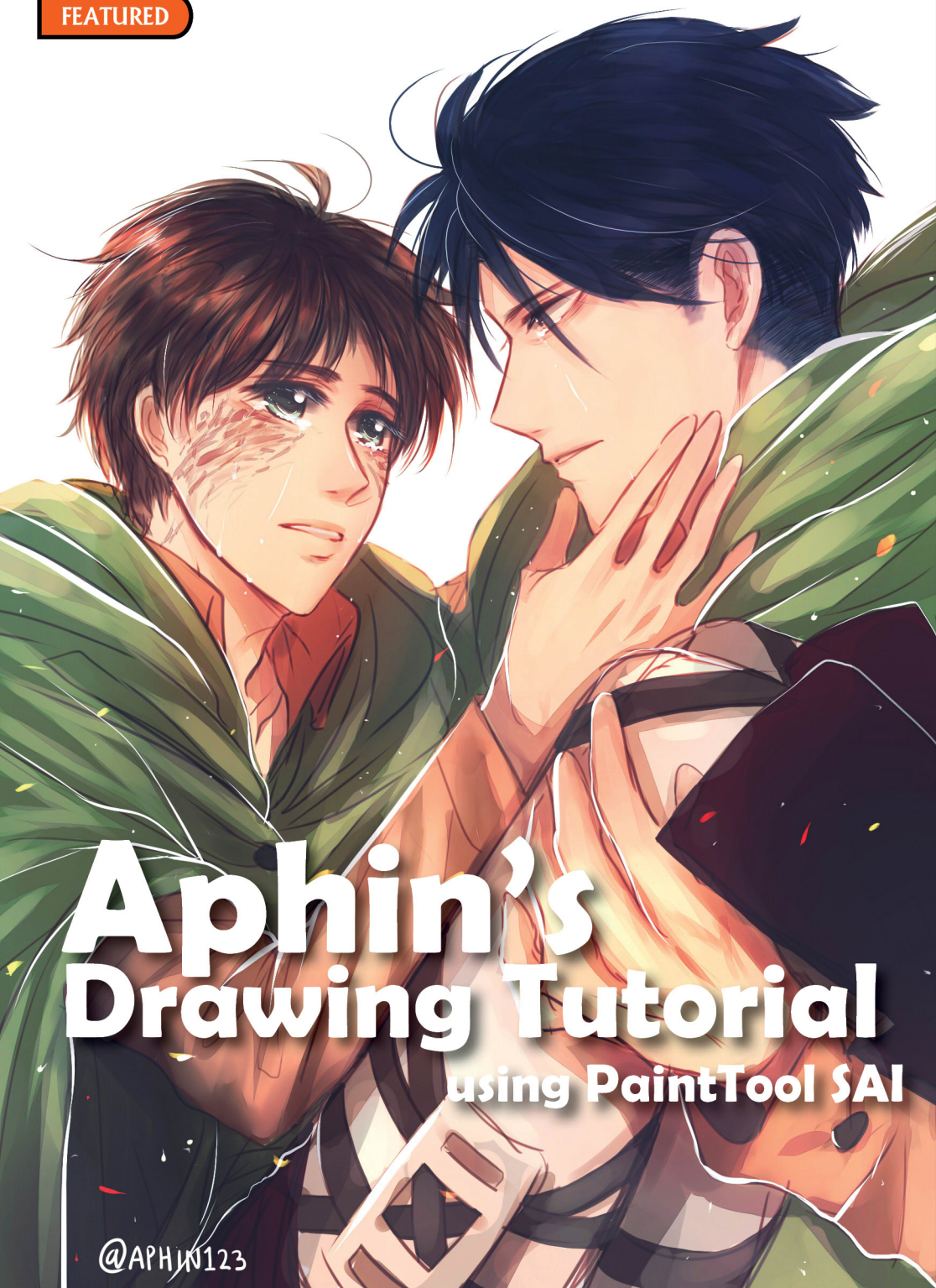
4 Ai no Kusabi

The complexity and darkness of Ai No Kusabi never fails to intrigue viewers. While most yaoi fans will prefer yaois that give us happy or fuzzy feelings, Ai No Kusabi is very different from every other yaoi with its no nonsense angst and sci-fi theme.



5 Koisuru Boukun

The cat and mouse chase makes us cringe, but why do we still like it? Perhaps it's the artwork, comedic moments, or just because we secretly want more?



Aphin's Drawing Tutorial

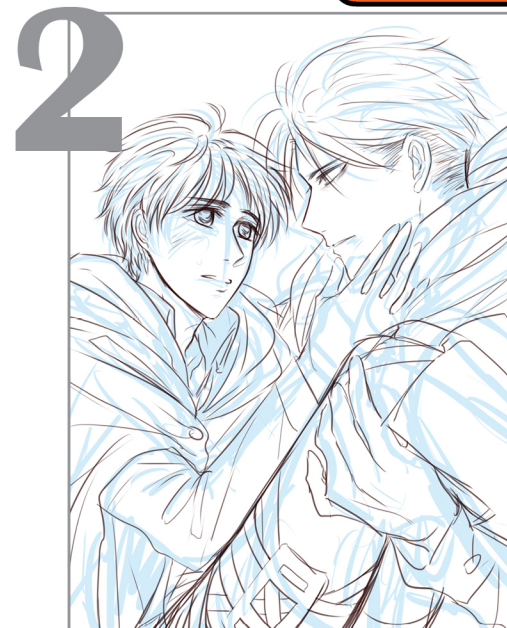
using PaintTool SAI

@APHIN123



Sketching

Sketching comes first, we don't have to draw neat lines for sketches, just do what you want. I love making my sketches more "sketchy" looking (slightly messy strokes). For sketching, I picked a bright colour so it's easier for me to line it later. For this tutorial sketch, I used a sky blue colour.



Line Art

After the sketch is done, I made a new layer above the sketch, and lowered the opacity of my blue sketch line to 15% or 20% (this is up to you). For the line art, I used a colour that's a combination of brown, black, and red. It will be easier for me to pick the color for the skin as these colours match the skin colour palettes.



Separating colors

After the line art is done, it's important to give your background some colour to separate your colours later. I always use a grey shade because it's neutral. At this point, you can still see my rough line art. Most people often like to make neat line art, but I don't really like neat line art as I prefer line art that has "sketchy" feelings.



aphin123

"Hello, I'm Aphin! This is a fanart of Levi and Eren from Attack on Titan."

fb.com/aphin123fujoshi
twitter.com/aphin123



Cel shading or lay flat colors

Cel shade all the stuff you need to colour, which means to lay flat colours. For pictures like the tutorial one, I usually separate all the different colours into different layers (For example: Skin colour for the skin layer only and the cloak "green" colour for the cloak layer only). It will make things easier if we separate all the colours into different layers.

NOTE: The line art layer should always be above all the other layers.

Eyes coloring & adding shadows

Then after some skin tones (using pink), I did the eye colour, where the first gradation is white for the background of the eyes. Next, I added the eyeball colour which is a greenish violet. My eye colouring is simple, I just have to lock the layer and make 3 different colour tones - the first one is lighter, the second is darker, and the last one is the darkest. After that, I added shadows to the upper eye area and below the eyebrow so it looks like the eye has some shadowing to it. I used a grey colour which I think is more suitable because it's neutral.

I will also add more shadow for lighting later.



Shading

Make a new layer above the colour layers. Then, set a new layer as 'Multiply' and this will give shadows to all coloured layers. Using the airbrush or spray tool will help you find the spots where you should put in some 'lighting' or 'shadow' with ease. In this case, I used an airbrush with a brown black colour to give me quick indications as to where I should place the shadow and the lighting. After doing this simple shadowing, I picked a brighter colour to give some simple tones to the skin.



Hair details

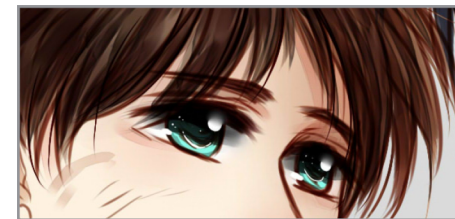
Make a new layer, set it as "Multiply", and then start to add details to the hair. A quick tip for colouring hair: Always colour it in a zig-zag style or wave motion. I picked a darker colour for the hair.



Extra detailing

More detailing to the hair and a bit on everything else.

I also added a white blob on the eyes and fixed the skin tones a little. This can all be done according to your preference.



Establish atmosphere

I wanted to make a darker atmosphere for this picture, so I add an overlay layer above all the layers including the line art layer, and I picked a darker colour for the scene. You can see it has becomes darker. There are various methods at the PaintTool SAI panel that can be used such as saturation or hue. I just picked Overlay because I've always used this trick, but I find that saturation and hue are easier, you can try it too.

10



Adjust colours

This is an important step. First, for the overlay layer, pick your first skin tone before the edit and apply it to all the colours as "Overlay layer", it will make the skin look brighter and softer. Don't forget to stay with the light and shadow rule, so that when it comes to light, you have to pick brighter colours, and when it comes to shadow, pick darker colours.

11



More detailing

Add a new overlay layer, and start detailing all the shadow and light, detailing the hair and the cloak. And also add the titan veins on the face.

White lines & color adjustments

I always use white lines to separate the light and shadow colour for each palette. To me, it makes it look more realistic, but that's just my taste, you can try it if you like. Leaving it like that is fine as well.

At this stage, I realized that my art is too dark, so I added more overlay layers above all the layers and picked a brighter brown colour for the skin tones, and then applied it to some areas that I think is too dark and also makes the colours softer.

12



13



Creating mood

For the saturation and hue colour, I want to make it feel colder, because the scene is supposed to contain some angst and sadness in it, so I pick the "cold" palette. It's like blue or green (ice or sea color). It gives the art a more icy or cold feeling.

14



Add effects

Make a new layer and set it as "Luminosity", it's my favourite because it can create a shiny feel like sunshine, or sparkles, or any shiny things. I wanted to make some "feels" petals floating around, so I picked red and yellow because it's brighter and fits in with the scene. You can add whatever you want, but don't forget the air line and flow.

15



Final touch

For the final part, I used an airbrush with a white sky blue color, and then applied it below the art and a little to the head area. This layer is set as Screen, it will give the artwork a smoky or hazy effect and I really love this layer! Add signature, and we're done!

King x Mon

@ CF Mini

August 2013, (Malaysia)
Reported by: Aarin



To cater to the people in the northern region of Malaysia, the crew behind the hugely successful Comic Fiesta held annually in Kuala Lumpur decided to organize a mini Comic Fiesta convention in Penang, simply called “Comic Fiesta Mini” or “CF Mini”.

I was pleased to find out that one of the guests at this event was King x Mon, a Cosplay duo who are famous not only for their mainstream anime works but also BL cosplays as well, especially King. I didn’t know much about them before but from what I’d heard from a friend who is an avid cosplayer, they are immensely popular in Taiwan and many parts of Asia. So with a special arrangement for an interview particularly on their BL cosplay, I managed to sit down with King and Mon, together with Waninoko who had been a tremendous help throughout the event in translating my English questions to Mandarin. I believe that this was their first time being interviewed regarding the BL genre particularly for the English community fans, so if you’re a fan of theirs but can’t understand Chinese, you’ll be interested to read about their experiences in cosplaying BL or gender-bending characters:



▲ King (right) as Saruhiko Fushimi, with Mon (left) as Neko; from Project K.

King x Mon FaceBook page: facebook.com/kingxmon

“BL got me into cosplaying” - King

Q Please tell us about yourselves.

King Hi, I'm King, and I've been cosplaying for 12 years. I cosplayed a lot of BL characters when I started because it was that genre that got me into cosplaying.

Mon Hi, I'm Mon and I've been cosplaying for 5 years.

Q What made you work together as a team?

King We got to know each other through friends. We decided to cosplay together after realising that we both share a common interest and opinion towards a lot of things. Our first work together was a GL project. We've been cosplaying together for five years now.

Q How many BL cosplays have you worked on to date?

King I myself have about 70 to 80 works related to BL, this is added up by personal BL pairings from almost every show we cosplay. My friend and I have been trying to capture the BL image in our hearts of every show; to us, it's our way of showing others how much we love that particular show.

Mon I like BL but I haven't done any BL cosplays to date. Most of my works are based on Doujins.

King Yes, the cosplays she's done aren't considered as BL but are more like cosplaying pairings of her own liking.

Q Has anyone mistaken you as a male cosplayer? How do you feel about that?

Mon No, I haven't experienced such a thing.

King As for me, I get that all the time, though only a few thought that I'm a girl. This is because I have certain angles and skills to make myself look like a man when I'm topless, which is required in most of the BL shots. I'm mostly a Seme in BL cosplays.

Q What's the most challenging thing to cosplay as a male character?

King The gestures are the most challenging aspect of cross-dressing as a man, especially as a Seme. Most male characters in BL comics have broad shoulders and a small butt, something that we girls lack; for that, I'll make the shoulders of my costumes a bit broader. When shooting topless, I'd use a stronger and more powerful pose to make my body look less feminine. If all these are done right, then the final outcome will be very convincing.

Mon Because my face doesn't look like a man's, I'd put on an angrier eyebrow. I'd usually choose a cuter role to play, and leave the “cooler” ones to King. (hehe... haha...)

Q What's your most memorable cosplay experience as a team?

King The recent cosplay we did for “Attack on Titan” was quite memorable. In the story, characters were jumping on rooftops, but in reality, it's quite impossible to imitate that. We tried a lot of things from jumping on beds to climbing trees, it was quite risky and we hurt ourselves in the process. There were a few times when we thought we were going to die! Because we love the show a lot, we push ourselves to get the shots we have in mind. And no matter how hard the process, it will be memorable to us.

Q What's your upcoming BL-related cosplay project?

King My next BL project is going to be Viewfinder. Although I've done that a few times, but as I grow older and find my age getting closer to the characters themselves, I feel that I should reshoot it again. I have a very good BL cosplayer friend who will gladly cosplay to collaborate with me.

Mon My next character is Tokisaki Kurumi from Date A Live, a character that can control time and most importantly is very loud and crazy, which is something I like to see in a character.



▲ King's cosplay of Crimson Spell, pics taken by King's photographer

(When asked if King can provide us with her BL Cosplay pictures...)

King To be honest, we really take pride in the BL Cosplay photos we have, and they even made it to a famous variety show in our country. People in the show never doubted if we were female cosplayers as they were completely convinced, and for that, as a cosplayer, it's something we are very proud of. Part of the reason is because it's BL cosplay, and showing it on television really meant a lot to us. So we're more than glad to provide you with our pictures, and hopefully impress others with our cosplay enough for them to check out the original BL anime or manga.

(minutes later... about Crimson Spell)

King My friend and I just love that piece of work and we cosplayed it 7 years ago, and it was scary! We redid that same show last year because we thought that we really looked like men. There were a lot of intimate scenes throughout the shoot and it required a friend whom I've known for a long time, to pull it off, as we had to get naked and kiss each other during the shooting process.

(minutes later... about keeping in touch and sharing)

King There are a lot of BL mangas that may not have good drawings, but they have an outstanding plot to back it up. So we share our thoughts and these mangas with a lot of cosplayers (Mon too) and they did the same as well.

The interview ended well although it was just a quick one. King and Mon were very friendly and are truly BL fans. It seems like they are constantly seeking to improve themselves and also to inspire people. I, myself as a non-cosplayer, have been inspired by them, especially by their creativity and poise.



February 2014 (Australia)
Reported by: *Pirotess and LadyLuckDoubt*

After seven months of planning and hard work by Pirotess and LadyLuckDoubt, Room 801 opened its doors in Sydney in late February 2014. The convention is one of the latest additions to Australia's vibrant anime convention scene, and only the second attempt to run a local yaoi and yuri convention.

The convention festivities started on Friday evening for ten premium attendees, guest artist Tyr Tapir, four volunteers and the organisers with a life drawing session at the Artful Hen. The art instructor Krista ran a fun and expertly guided two-hour session with our lovely model Scott, which the group enjoyed regardless of their artistic skill or experience. Introductions and breaks gave everyone a chance to get to know each other and figure out what everyone's shared fandoms were. The session was unexpectedly backed up with a great soundtrack thanks to Krista, including plenty of The Seatbelts and even the Monkey Magic theme!

The main convention kicked off on Saturday morning with LadyLuckDoubt's talk on The World of Visual Novels in the Main Theatre. A few fans gave short fandom-related talks in the slightly smaller Workshop, with Jake and Ruby promoting Gaming Cult Podcast and PinkPaperHeart and Hasegawa providing a light-hearted discussion of "the metaphorical penises of the Bleachverse".

Panels and presentations alternated in the two main rooms throughout the day, covering diverse topics across fandom including tropes and stereotypes, comics, video games, fanfiction and technology. Aarin, the founder of AarinFantasy, introduced Otome's Way, SuBLime Manga and several talented artists from Asia and around the world. Dr Scott Beattie, a censorship lawyer and academic, presented a popular talk on legal issues and censorship affecting yaoi and yuri fans and creators. Level4Chaos, a fan from Queensland, delivered an entertaining presentation on how to handle online criticism, especially flames.

EVENT

Transmedia artist Roberto Iolini presented his latest project in progress, syncandi - a yuri radio drama that he intends to pitch to Australia's national broadcaster. A quartet of rope artists and models from the Sydney Rope Dojo spoke about and demonstrated kinbaku, the art of Japanese rope bondage, from both a male and female perspective.

AarinFantasy and a small group of traders and artists were in the foyer selling their wares all weekend. AarinFantasy sold games, prints and merchandise by BlackMonkeyPro, Aphin123, PenguinFrontier and Otome's Way. Gaming Cult Podcast, Fox Lee, RAE Comics, SGVY, Bea, Nekochii, Amei Zhao and Ajadeart sold items including original comics and doujinshi, prints, T-shirts, crafts, accessories and sketch commissions.

Screenings ran in the smallest room during Saturday, starting off with Black Rock Shooter and working through a selection of yaoi, yuri and gen anime covering a range of genres, including Descendants of Darkness, Persona 4: The Animation, Revolutionary Girl Utena and Rin: Daughters of Mnemosyne.

Sean Z. Maker, the president and founder of Bent-con, dropped by in the afternoon and attended several sessions in between mingling with attendees and artists. Bent-con is an inclusive LGBT-focused convention in California that shares a lot of common ground with Room 801, so it was great to have the support and goodwill of an international convention organiser at our very first event!

The final major event of the day was a debate in which four speakers argued for and against the topic "that yaoi and yuri should be more realistic in its depictions of people, love, relationships and sexual encounters". The debate veered between serious and dirty, highbrow and downright hilarious, keeping the audience thoroughly entertained. LadyLuckDoubt adjudicated with the help of the audience, finally declaring the debate a tie.

After a dinner break, the staff rearranged the main theatre space for the swap meet. Several people brought their second hand DVDs, manga, doujinshi and even shoes to sell, and Mary and Sean Z. set up tables for their own work and chatted to attendees. A three-hour playlist of AMVs, silly internet videos and Asian music videos played on the projector and PA to keep the crowd entertained while they socialised.



EVENT

On Sunday morning, the staff and traders set up to do it all over again. The schedule got off to a sleepy start, with the convention's writing guests tackling the question of "Will Erotic Fiction Ever Be Taken Seriously?" while Khursten Santos ran a focus group discussion for a University of Wollongong research project. Author Mary Borsellino, game designer Luke Miller and artist Jozef Szekeres all delivered interesting talks about their experiences as creators of work that addressed same-sex relationships and identities. Aarin ran another showcase presentation for attendees that may have missed her talk on Saturday, and Pirotess shared a range of techniques for creating comics in Manga Studio.

Two of the most popular events on Sunday were a joint presentation by LadyLuckDoubt and Level4Chaos on money-saving tips for cosplayers, and a live playthrough of Hatoful Boyfriend by Zac and Jake from Gaming Cult Podcast. For the uninitiated, Hatoful Boyfriend is an otome game where the player is the last human on earth and is studying at a private school for pigeons. The Gaming Cult team has recorded and put the playthrough up on YouTube for posterity and everyone's ongoing enjoyment at:

<http://tinyurl.com/pz5jtpp>

Screenings for the rest of the day included the yaoi fandom classics Gundam Wing: Endless Waltz, Gravitation and FAKE, the new Ai no Kusabi TV series, the NHK documentary The Fragile Heart of Moé and some treats for yuri and gen fans including Sweet Blue Flowers, Canaan and Princess Resurrection.

At the end of Sunday everyone gathered in the main theatre for some emotional final speeches and thanks from the organisers. The crowd definitely made it known that they wanted to see another event, especially in Sydney! Stephanie was announced as the winner of the roving cosplay competition for her very cool Aoba (from DraMatical MurDer) costume on Saturday.

Overall, the first event surpassed all expectations and there's a very good chance that Room 801 will be back again! Pirotess and LadyLuckDoubt want to thank everyone who attended and got involved, especially AarinFantasy and our sponsors - Siren Visual, Madman, Otome's Way, SuBLime Manga, JOY 94.9, y!Gallery and Anime News Network - for supporting the giveaways and helping to promote the convention. The organisers are open to suggestions for a future convention and are already planning to run one or two small events in the second half of 2014, so keep visiting the event website for more news or send them an email at: room801au@gmail.com

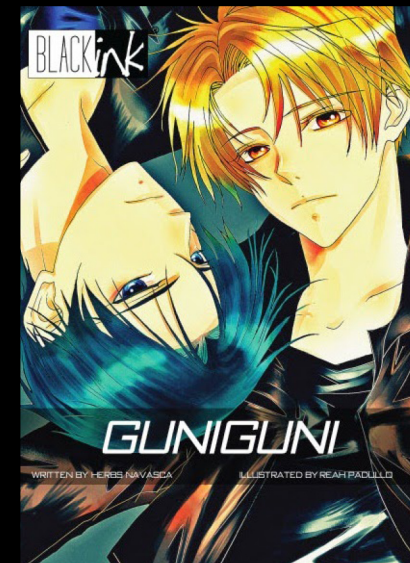


BLush 2014

May 2014, (Philippines)
Reported by: Khursten Santos

I often imagine what a perfect day would be like. Rolling around in bed. Getting served by some cutie pie morning and afternoon tea. Reading BL all day long. Talking BL all day long with friends. Buying BL-related goods with little care of the cash left in my wallet. For me, this would be the best day for a fujoshi like me and apart from rolling around in bed, I think this year's Blush Convention in Manila came close to a perfect day for fujojos.

This year's Blush Convention was held at Ikeda Hall inside the University of the Philippines. The theme this year is Secrets and Confessions, exploring the secret world of men and the lives they hide behind closed doors. As such, the Blush Anthology also published another anthology which carried their theme. The cover was done by one of e.recto's artist, Yee Hun.



Despite the quiet premise of this year's theme, the convention was nowhere near quiet and the space was filled with tons of fujoshi feels and fervour. The panels this year were quite exciting given that guests, Tintin Pantoja, a published comic artist, and -Fe, a Japanese doujin artist, were more than happy to talk about the process of making a BL comic or doujinshi and were encouraging the crowd to produce and publish their works. Local comic publisher, Black Ink, was also around to talk about their new line of BL titles, an experiment of sorts that took a positive turn after seeing the community's positive response to their BL titles. There were also talks on seiyuu, BL games, and Hetalia. And for this year, I got an earful of screams (in a good way!) when I gave a talk on various sports teams that fujoshi have loved over the years. I also talked about the various ways Philippine fans could get their BL fix legally. Sublime, for example, is one of the BL publishers who make their works available online and without any geological restrictions.

But the panel was only a part of the convention experience. Our butler cafe, Cafe La Vie En Rose, is one of Blush's trademark activities. For one hour, guests of the convention can have all the tea and cakes while enjoying the service of elegant butlers. This year, the cafe had butlers who came all the way from Iwatobi and Seirin! Apart from serving tea, these butlers took photos and played games with guests. It was a delightful experience, one that had a fair share of dokidoki and munekyun!

But a convention is not a convention without a market. But a convention is not a convention without a market,

and this year's sellers have grown exponentially, especially with new artists opening shop, selling their wares and comics on the table. This year, Blush was graced again by the awesome crew of Black Monkey Pro, perhaps the most amazing example of regional unity as these guys come not only from the Philippines but from Indonesia and Vietnam. A member of their crew, Malaysian artist PenguinFrontier particularly received a lot of attention for his amazing (and hot) Levi and Jean art from Attack on Titan. CinnamonRub was also there to sell the first volume of his work, Not Yours Am I. We also had shops that sold official goods from various English BL publishers as well as goods all the way from Akihabara and Ikebukuro. I, for one, have many regrets not buying that Matsuoka Rin pillow.

The convention also had its library and a photo booth where attendees could take photos and have a lasting memory of the convention.

All in all, it was an event to remember. With tickets sold out as early as January, the attendees were quite limited but there were many things for them to do and enjoy throughout the day. For me, I met a lot of amazing fujoshis who shared the same love I did for BL. The energy was intoxicating and honestly, the convention truly provided the space it intentionally wanted, a safe and fun space for fujoshis to let loose for a day.

Here's hoping for another fun event next year!

CASTLE MANGO



REVIEWER: calloutyoru

WRITER: Muku Ogura
MANGA ARTIST: Narise Konohara
PUBLISHER: June Manga



Highschooler Yorozu Shirotsuki meets AV director Togame on a perfectly normal working day—in a love hotel room. Incidentally, this specific room is a part of the family business left by Shirotsuki's father; Castle Mango. An AV company has been choosing the location for their newest production; of which Togame happens to be director. A misunderstanding (involving absent juice actors and pants being forcefully pulled down) lights a spark of immediate dislike/reluctant interest between the two main characters, which eventually turns into something sweetly complicated instead.

Funny thing is, as crackishly smutty the setup may seem, this story takes very few of the ordinary BL routes. Written by novelist Konohara Narise and illustrated by Ogura Muku, 'Castle Mango' is a fine blend between a well-developed storyline and striking artwork, devoid of most stereotypical traps. Rather, they have created a unique story, and most of all—characters who actually live.

Not overwhelmingly different, but perfectly human, the main characters are moulded in a beautifully realistic form. They deal with tragic pasts and faded dreams, struggle with everyday life issues like stress and lack of money, and they change and develop in rhythm with it all. These small pieces of pain and happiness offer the reader a deep sense of understanding and compassion. You simply can't help but care for these people.

The focus of the story lies in the slowly evolving feelings of love between Yorozu and Togame. Their relationship is carefully depicted with a lot of emotion, and moves along at a calm pace, which gives room for a sort of naturality seldom portrayed within the BL universe. It's adorable without being perfect, heart-twining without being dramatic, unusual without being forced. More like, it's just about falling in love as it is; awkward, overwhelming, wonderful, and very painful at times.

Overall, 'Castle Mango' is an utterly captivating read, outstanding in most aspects. Lovers of original backgrounds will rejoice. Art-devotees will purr. The age gap-fetishists will squeal. And some will laugh. I realise it's a bit late stating that after this abundance of (vaguely melancholic) words of praise, but it'd be unfair to leave the comedy part out. Amidst the trembling heartbeats, this title actually has quite a few moments of hilarity subtly mixed with/adding to the sheer brilliance. In fact, I'm tempted to say it has it all.

Comic Fiesta
2013

December 2013, (Malaysia)
Reported by: Aarin



I couldn't get enough of Comic Fiesta the past year, and decided to do another cover report of the two-day event focusing on BL again and this time, I even organized a mini contest, with prizes sponsored by SuBLime manga. It was a huge event with about 40,000 people in attendance this time around. The day started with a bang with attendees rushing in to their booths of interest so they could get their hands on the things they wanted most before they ran out of stock. Despite the mad rush, the CF staff were prepared for it and things seemed to go along pretty well. There were sections of the halls that catered mainly to Cosplay, League of Legend, Premium Booths, Doujin Booths, and Concert Stage.

I started my day by checking out the premium booths section, which was quite a huge area with people walking about shoulder to shoulder. With the huge crowd, I had to

walk really slowly and so arrived slightly late to the booth where I was supposed to hold the mini contest. On both days, the contest went fine despite some hiccups due to some misunderstandings and lack of proper planning on my part. But we still had fun during those contests, where I had people drawing from the Uke and Seme container, and then later we did a JanKenPon to make it more interesting and faster paced. For this contest, a small space was provided for me for a short time at Black Monkey Pro and Penguin Frontier's booth, so a big thanks to them for lending me their space. I was happy to see that BL fans flocked to their booth and most of them were drooling over the artworks displayed on the booth wall. Not only that, Black Monkey Pro's visual novel gained the most attention because it was one-of-a-kind. They had a lot of other stuff for sale too such as original art prints and fanart prints/merchandise.





▲ Danny Choo with his fan who cosplays as Mirai, a mascot character for his website, Culture Japan.

◀ Kenneth "Lilaeroplane" Ting cosplays as Makoto from Free! (FUN FACT: He was the Hard Gay who appeared in our last issue)

◀ Stayxxx cosplays a character from Letter Bee.



Being part of the media group, I was scheduled for a short 15 minute private interview with a guest cosplayer of CF2013, "Stayxxx", from Taiwan. I chose to interview her because I knew that she's a BL fan judging by her previous works. However, we were told on that day itself that we could only do a 3 minute interview, but my translator and I managed to interview her and got straight to the point. Understandably, she needed some rest because she had just finished a few lengthy interviews with other media and bloggers, and she had to head to the cosplay panel as a judge. Although she looked tired, she still managed to smile throughout the interview.

Stayxxx mentioned that the cosplay scene in Malaysia is very interesting, where everyone cosplays their favourite characters. She was pleasantly surprised that they even have cosplay performances and stage competitions, which were professionally done. She mentioned that she has liked BL for quite a while now but hadn't been in touch with BL much at first until her friend recommended the BL game, Togainu no Chi to her, which got her very interested in the subject. After that, she cosplayed as Shiki, marking her first time cosplaying a BL character. From then on, she has tried cosplaying different BL characters. Up till today, her favourite BL title is still Togainu no Chi. When asked about what cosplay means to her, she mentioned that cosplay is like a doujin to her; if a person likes BL then that person will devote his/her time to draw BL manga or write BL novels. So similarly for her, if she likes a character from a show, she cosplays that character, or at least tries her best to do so. She thinks that to make the most out of cosplay, or to gain more fun and experience from it, she makes the costumes herself, as opposed to the trend of buying ready-made costumes and accessories online.

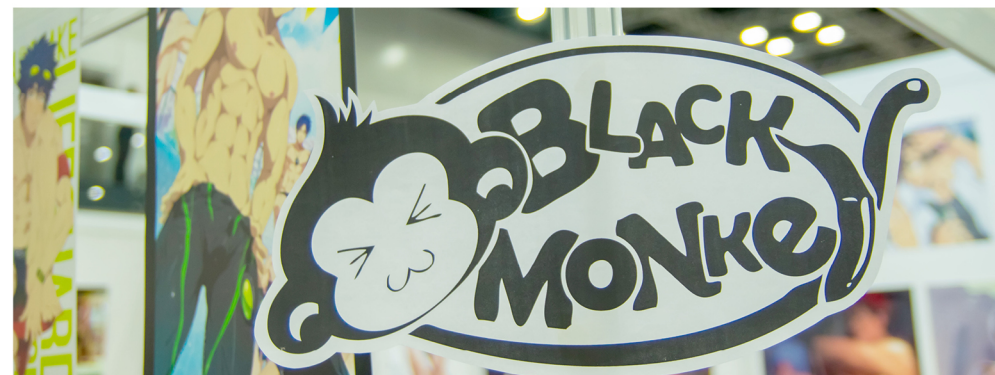
Stayxxx even came up to me during her break and gave me a pat on the shoulder, saying in her native tongue: "BL 很棒!" which translates to "BL is awesome!" It was such a sudden gesture that I was speechless and just smiled at her. It's safe to say that Stayxxx is a certified BL fan!

I attended Danny Choo's interview as well, not because of anything BL-related, but out of pure interest. He spoke more about his upcoming prototype, the Mirai doll, and less about Japan's culture compared to the previous year's media interview. He's still as charismatic as usual and had fun talking to us. If you do not know who Danny Choo is, he bridges international fans and gets them interested in Japan's culture while working on his own character project called Mirai. His efforts have been very inspiring to me.

The next day, I headed straight to the Doujin Booth area where lots of independent artists displayed their work for sale. There was more fanart-related merchandise this time; some titles that stood out the most were the newer

Attack on Titan and the usual Naruto. Among the seas of colourful doujins, prints, and merchandise on display, there was some BL stuff, too. I came across several booths that featured BL pairings with most of them being fanart and very few original artworks. I should point out that despite some criticism I heard openly regarding BL in the event, I think overall most people were respectful, if not accepting, towards the genre as they do know that yaoi is a part of Japanese's ACG culture with all the fanservice going around with non-yaoi fans too because ultimately the event goes are mostly ACG fans and it's all done for entertainment.

The most rewarding thing other than the experience of being there was being able to meet tons of people, especially BL fans whom I have met before as well as some new faces. Thank you for coming to say hello to me. I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to a few people who have helped make things possible: Hew, Yoke, Wani, Aphin, Penguin Frontier, BMP, and Lisa.



DON'T BE CRUEL



REVIEWER: Yuuri Kirito
MANGA ARTIST: Nekota Yonezou

Since the beginning of my journey exploring the magnificent world of Boy's Love, I have read different kinds of titles from numerous authors and mangakas; some were liked and cherished, some were worth a tear from my sleepy eyes. They ranged from action, suspense, drama, fantasy, comedy, and an ordinary slice of life. But out of all the mangas I have treasured all these years, I have picked this very special manga to recommend: it's Nemugasa and Maya and their wacky love story in Hiodoku Shinaide.

Published last 2009 with three extra one-shots; the main story circled around a bookworm named Nemugasa Takashi whose grades were at the brink of losing his scholarship and so, cheated in a very important exam. What's worse; he was caught off guard. Worse still, by his infamous perverted classmate Maya Hideyuki. Things got more complicated when Maya forced Nemugasa to "take his pants off" in exchange for keeping what he saw in the classroom a secret. That situation forged a sudden relationship between them and little by little, Nemugasa found himself living in a world too involved with the mischievous imp.

Honestly, this kind of setting is mediocre – story plot is predictable, direction of panels is quite similar to other mediocre titles around, and the ending is boring. You

also expect a couple of stereotypes: a handsome perverted seme plus an innocent bespectacled uke equals your usual order of a value meal. Most readers that are quite experienced and a little meticulous in selecting manga to read might not pick up this title with its not-so-promising aura that is just worth a shrug. But I have to say, I do like Yonezou Nekota and her ideals. I like her way of storytelling. I like her art above all.

First, her uke, Nemugasa is a plain-looking geek in specs. He was prone to self-doubt – due to the fact that he's virgin and had no idea how the cruel world of love revolved – and sometimes I think he's getting to my limits. He's like a woman trapped in a man's body. And I see no interest in seeing him in his undergarments. But no matter how plain he looked, he had this unusual charm, and I must admit that I have compared him to a little kitten: soft and cute.

And here's one complex character, Maya Hideyuki. He's one hot cutie. And he really is. Everyone could understand that he liked Nemugasa in the first place. But you really couldn't rely on a handsome cutie to excel in expressing his innermost feelings, could you? I have seen him as a "tsundere" with him usually blushing when innocent Nemugasa acted flirty around him and he remained as stoic as usual. And anyone could melt seeing how he licked his lips in excitement. But there are cases that his "cruelty" towards Nemugasa hit the edge and you'd find yourself hating him for being so mean. But eventually, you'd forgive him once he revealed his sexy body. Yum.

The rest of the art is detailed and clean. In the first volume, there were imbalances on the characters' body proportions. There were panels where their heads were a bit larger and Nemugasa's body wasn't that enticing. But during the next volume up to the doujins, everything has improved; from character designs up to designs drawn on each panel.

While the whole design drastically changed, the intensity of the smut never decreased. Despite the imbalanced bodies, when the scene was hot, it was indeed blazing with fire. As someone who's not ashamed of admitting that I sometimes read manga because of the smut, I really liked this factor as it somehow helped me cope with Maya's frustrations to keep Nemugasa from wandering away from him. And I did enjoy it as Nemugasa did as Maya was too hot to be ignored.

I am amazed at how this manga made me laugh and cry simultaneously. It's just a simple mediocre thing to read but the drama was intense. I recommend this to anyone who wants to experience a wonderful world created by two pretty boys in love.

FREE!

When they were in elementary school, Haruka, Makoto, Nagisa, and Rin were great friends. They participated in, and won, a swimming tournament together, but then Rin left to go to a swimming school in Australia.

Five years later, Haruka, Makoto, and Nagisa reunite at Iwatobi High School, and soon after Rin suddenly reappears, returned from Australia. He is attending a different school, and for some reason is antagonistic towards his old friends. Rin challenges Haruka to a race, which Rin wins.

After the race, the three boys decide to try and restart the Iwatobi High School Swimming Club, which had closed due to lack of members, so they can compete against Rin. They recruit a new member, Rei, and Rin's sister Gō (who attends their school), becomes their manager.

To be honest, I actually avoided watching this for ages, as there had been so much hype about it and I was afraid of being disappointed. I should know by now to trust the judgment of my fellow fujoshi/fudanshi, as it totally lived up to everything I had heard about it.

The boys are hot, Gō is awesome (she loves seeing the guys' muscles XD), the story is great (even if you, like me, aren't a fan of sports anime), and the ending gave me warm fuzzies!

The character types are pretty much standard for animes: Haruka is the quiet and stoic character, obsessed with swimming and mackerel. His favourite, and actually only, swimming style is the freestyle; Makoto is the kind and caring character, keeping the peace in the

REVIEWER: stormwolf2010

group. His swimming style is the backstroke; Nagisa is the bouncy, outgoing, and sometimes annoying, character. He swims breaststroke; and Rei is the (mostly) serious megane. His style is the butterfly.

The other main character is Rin. To be honest, he's a complete arsehole, taking his anger at his own failures out on his old friends. Even so, I didn't find him painful or annoying, as the series is as much about Rin's journey to reach his goal as it is about the Iwatobi Swimming Club. If you've ever lost something, only realising after that it was precious to you, you will definitely empathize with Rin.

The supporting cast is well-rounded and loveable. I didn't find one character that I didn't like (although Rin's roommate, Nitori, came close).

I read somewhere that for this series, the animators studied real swimmers and swimming techniques. You can definitely see this in the way the characters move in the water (although they are somewhat exaggerated in places), and how their muscles flex when they stretch. It all looks very realistic, and not overdone in any way.

As a friend of mine said after she watched it, at its core, it is a show about friendship. As much as I love the idea of Rin x Haru, I think making it a full-on BL anime would have cheapened it, at least in the first season. Rin and Haru's obsession with each other is out there in the open though, so you can't help but read more into it.

Hopefully the second season will be just as good, give us more great fanservice, and maybe even dive into the full-on BL territory we all want to see!





Kaien Yuu

Cosplay Tutorial: **Female to Male**, A Transformation

Character: **Mikisugi Aikuro** from Kill La Kill

Kaien Yuu, from Malaysia, started cosplaying in 2011 stemming from her interest in animes and games, and especially the Final Fantasy series. She's inspired by Yuegene Fay, a well-known cosplayer from Thailand. Kaien enjoys styling the wigs of the characters she cosplays and likes to cosplay both female and male characters equally but stated that male characters are easier to cosplay as they usually require less makeup. Male wigs are also more comfortable to wear according to Kaien. The major distinctions between the female and male cosplays are the difference in eye makeup, contouring and concealing, and of course the chest binding involved for male characters. Her wish is to be a versatile cosplayer who can cosplay a variety of characters that ranges from young to old. In this segment, we let you in on a simple tutorial featuring Kaien with tips on how she transforms into a male character.



Kaien without any makeup. She's wearing a pair of blue contact lenses.

Kaien's Tip: "For male characters, do not use big circle contact lenses as smaller lenses give you a more masculine look. I wear 14mm lenses for my male cosplays. And of course, contour and more contour!"

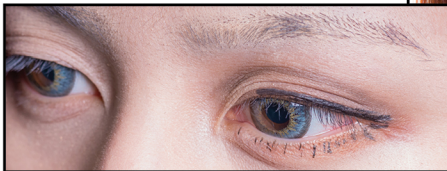
Step 1:

She applies concealer all over her face, especially emphasizing on concealing her eyebrows, dark under eye circles and any redness at the nose and lip corners. Then she sets her face with loose powder. This is important so that the camera's flash won't appear to be too obvious.



Step 2:

She then applies a dark eye shadow to the upper and lower corners of her eyes, with the edges being the darkest. She then draws a line on the crease of her eyes to create an illusion of a deep double eyelid with the use of a dark brown eyebrow pencil. Next, she highlights with a light nude colour at the inner corners of the eyes. After that comes the use black eyeliner to line her upper eyelids and to draw subtle lashes on the bottom eyelid area.



Kaien with concealer and eye makeup.



Step 3:

She contours her nose and cheeks with dark brown eye shadow or bronzer. After that, she fills in her eyebrows with blue eye shadow and uses concealer to conceal any stray brow hairs.



Kaien with her face contoured and eyebrows coloured in.



Kaien with her lips made up.



Step 4:

Later, she applies nude lipstick first, and then concealer all over her lips. After that comes a dark shade of brown to her inner lips.



Step 5:

She puts on her wig and costume, and she's camera ready!



These are the only two brushes she uses for all her cosplay makeup needs:
Shu Uemura blush brush and MAC 228 brush.

BL DRAMA CD REVIEW



Kimishiruya Unmei no Koi

REVIEW by UllaBritta

STORY BY: Kisaragi Hirotaka
 GENRE: Historical, Romance, Angst
 RATING: 18 +
 RELEASED IN JAPAN: 2006
 TRANSLATION: Available online (fan-made)
 STATUS: Complete

CAST:
 Suzuki Chihiro as Hinoguchi Natsu
 Konishi Katsuyuki as Hidaka Shinichirou
 Ookawa Tohru as Hinoguchi Norikazu
 Sasanuma Akira as Yaoki

Summary:

Based on a yaoi novel by Kisaragi Hirotaka. The story takes place in Japan, Showa period, between the 20s to 30s. Natsu is the result of an aristocrat who had an affair with a maid outside of his marriage. This led to Natsu being shunned by the members and even the servants. On the outside, the Hinoguchi family keeps up appearances yet once they are behind closed doors, Natsu gets reminded of his position within the family as he is forced to do chores usually done by servants.

The head of the Hinoguchi is now Norikazu, Natsu's older half-brother who doesn't acknowledge Natsu as a sibling. Norikazu owns a shipping company but is troubled by Hidaka Shinichirou, Natsu's classmate and future head of a rival shipping company. This leads to Norikazu imprisoning Hidaka in their cellar when the young man refuses to cooperate and sign some papers that would make Norikazu's life easier. Natsu finds out and is appalled. There is no bond of friendship between the two boys yet Natsu always finds himself being drawn to Hidaka. Begging his brother to spare Hidaka, Natsu manages to persuade Norikazu to let him tend to the injured Hidaka, in exchange for the promise that Natsu will talk the hostage into cooperating.

Natsu never reveals who he is when tending to Hidaka's wounds whose eyes are hurt and therefore can't see the boy. Hidaka gets better and experiences pleasant moments of having someone caring to talk to when imprisoned. A few days pass and instead of deceiving Hidaka to sign the papers, Natsu drugs the guard with sleeping medicine and sets Hidaka free.

Five years pass and Hidaka, coming home from England, can't forget the gentle servant that saved him. Hidaka meets Natsu again at a party, only to find out that the years have caused the Higuchi business to be indebted and rumours are that Natsu is using his body to get loans. Natsu on the other hand learns that his cousin, Yaoki, has been spending time with Hidaka since the man thinks it's him that helped him five years ago. Natsu hold his tongue, yet is devastated that he can never be honest with Hidaka.

The more time Hidaka spends with Yaoki and sees Natsu, the more he starts to doubt Yaoki being the person he is searching for. He believes Natsu knows the truth, being a member of the Higuchi, and starts to pressure him. The man refuses to tell, even when Hidaka violates him, thinking that Hidaka will hate him if he finds out.

More time passes, Hidaka keeps tormenting Natsu and at the same time, grows more attached to him. Norikazu notices that there is something going on between the two men and plots to use Natsu against Hidaka. Turmoil ensues but I won't say anymore, I don't want to spoil the ending for you.

Sound:

Suzuki Chihiro plays Natsu, a soft spoken young man that really cares for Hidaka. He has a great voice for angst situations and his cries of suffering sound real, although it also has its bad side since when in the middle of a pleasurable situation, his voice gets pretty loud and sometimes drowns the Seme's voice. A common feature amongst Ukes, unfortunately. The Seme, played wonderfully by Konishi Katsuyuki has a low, manly yet oddly gentle voice, and is very nice to listen to. Ookawa Tohru, known for his role as Jason Mink in the Ai no Kusabi remake, plays the evil brother and his cold and smooth timbre suits the character perfectly. The background sounds and music fit the time period, Showa Period, you just get the feeling that they really made an effort to maintain a high quality with this production.

Plot & Production:

The problem with Drama CDs is that there are rarely any translations available, so listening to them can be pretty pointless since you have no clue what's going on. Luckily, this story did have a translation, which I found online, and so I was able to enjoy the plot and not just the voice acting. Kimishiruya Unmei no Koi is now officially one of my favorites, a really nice story with great actors in the cast.

I like the plot, even if it is kind of cliché at times, but the bittersweet love that fills the story makes up for it. It's one of those rare Drama CDs that you are curious about the ending, where you listen because you want to hear the entire content and not just for the smut. The translation helps immensely of course, yet even without it I got the feeling that this CD is good. I really enjoyed it and highly recommend this Drama CD to every yaoi fan because it never gets mushy and stupid and the production value is top notch.

SOUND: 5/5

I almost want to lower the score a bit because of the Uke's high voice in the love scene but since it happens so often in BL Drama CDs, I'll let it pass.

PLOT: 4/5

Very nice, not too complicated yet developed enough to make it interesting.

CHARACTER: 5/5

No one was wimpy or stupid and their actions made sense. I like that the Seme had a sweet side to him despite acting like a bastard at times and that the Uke did try to stand up against his brother.

SMUT: 4/5

You don't really listen to this for the smut, it's pretty angst, but that's not always a bad thing.

LOVE/FLUFF: 4/5

Not too much and not too little, although I wouldn't mind if there was even less just to make the story really dark and angst but that's just me.

TOTAL: 5/5

Great Drama CD, filled with emotions, the score adds up to a 4, but the feel of the story just forces me to give it a top score.

AarinFantasy's FAQ

I have gotten a lot of questions about myself, as AarinFantasy, and I think I could even write a book about it on chapters of my life, just being AarinFantasy over the course of 10 years. Yes, there have been different phases just managing the site, the people and everything related to it, be it negative or positive... there always seems to be something going on every single day. I admit, there were times I wanted to give up on it since it did consume so much of my time but in the end I couldn't, because I thought about the efforts others have poured in – all the sweat and energy, time and money, by the lovely staff and community but most of all, I am still interested in the genre and care for the community that I have grown with. Below is a compilation I made from your questions as most of them are almost similar. Here goes:

Tell me more about yourself and some of your hobbies or favourite things?

While most people think that I am a female, there are also some who thought that I am a male simply because Aarin is actually a very androgynous name, but one that I think leans more towards the male side. So yeah, I am a female, born in 1980, and residing in Malaysia. I like the colour black because I like how it's associated with darkness and mystery, which I like, plus it's sexy!

I love gaming a lot, I started young around 1990 and it was a huge part of my life. I can be an overly obsessive game addict if there's a game I love. However, as I grew older, that changed a bit. I am now more interested in being involved in anything related to the arts or creative works which not only involves drawings or artwork, but also photography,

beauty/makeup, and choreography/dance.

I am a food addict as well, and am always searching for tasty or good food, and I also like to cook. The languages that I can speak are English, Cantonese, Malay/Bahasa, and a bit of Mandarin and Hokkien. While most people think I can speak Japanese, unfortunately I can't, except for the basics.

Like a lot of other people, I have a job. It's a family business and I don't spend all my time running the AarinFantasy forum only, but I still try to keep the website as my priority. It's weird when at times, I get statements about being like a superhuman that runs the site. But what else can I say, I am just a normal human being who happens to have a really good team to help me out. I still like to watch anime but seriously lack the time to do so. However, I still try to read some yaoi manga though I just started a few years ago, just to keep up-to-date with what's good to read and what's not. Juggling time for me is extremely hard and one can only do so much really.

What got you interested in yaoi and creating the forum?

Probably the most frequently asked question to date. It all started when I accidentally stumbled upon a fanfiction of Final Fantasy's 8 character, Seifer and Zell. I was not expecting a yaoi content in it when I started reading it. It just opened up my eyes and I thought to myself, "Wow, what was that I just read? It's interesting... I actually LIKED it!" and I even drew some art pieces for the fanfic writer who wrote that story.

And so began my hunt for everything yaoi. I searched mostly for yaoi fanfictions of the Final Fantasy series first, then got linked to yaoi anime which was Ai no Kusabi and then Gravitation. It was extremely hard to get them at that time when the internet connection speed was so slow and not having access to buy them online. Then my yaoi anime collection began to stack up and I was sharing it around 2003 using my name and my love for Final Fantasy, which when combined became "aarinfantasy", a name I have been using since 1997.

Towards the end of 2004, I opened a small forum to

share files and info on yaoi anime. Then around 2005, my website partner (Dai-kun) offered to open aarinfantasy.com and we ran it together till now. We did not expect the forum to grow this big after just a few years. At that time, I was surprised to find that yaoi was popular not only in Asia but also worldwide; especially the English-speaking community who wanted to read or see more.

I have spent a lot of time in the forum, and I really do mean A LOT. I normally spend time answering people's questions via email and private or visitor's message. It can range from 10 to over 50 messages a day but there were occasions when there were more than 100 per day. It's hectic at times but I try to be patient. Besides that, my staff and I do keep the forum in check and when I have the time, I will drop by some interesting topic to check out the news or who's doing what in the forum. Of course there have been fewer activities as the years go by, mainly because of the increased usage of social media, which is faster and more up-to-date but most of all, over the years there's been a decline of yaoi anime of which the forum is most known for subbing.

For those who asked about how the forum's card idea came up, it was Dai-kun's idea at first, by putting a yaoi character on the card sample, I then came up with the Levels system. This is mainly an inspiration I got from the Final Fantasy 8's Triple Triad card game. As far as I know, it had never been done in forums before at that time (character cards with levels), and we were quite surprised to see other forums liking it and adopting the same concept. Undeniably, it's a feature that we are really proud of and we are pleased to be the pioneers of the concept.

What is your favourite yaoi title and also non-yaoi ones?

I think Ai no Kusabi the anime will always have a special place in my heart, mainly because I started with it first. The unforgettable has to be Gravitation, as I kept playing its songs over and over when I first watched the series. As for manga, I currently like anything from Yamane Ayano, especially Crimson Spell and also random titles which have a good storyline first and secondly, nice artistic style. My favourite pairings are Iason Mink and Riki, or couples that have a younger seme and an older uke.

For non-yaoi titles, I watched quite a lot of anime over the past few years but have since had less time to watch more of it since 2012. So at the top of my head, I can think of Free!, Kuroko no Basuke, and Full Metal Panic. I used to enjoy watching Naruto, Bleach, and Katekyo Hitman Reborn, those mainstream ones, but stopped watching after a few hundreds of episodes in. I just didn't have the time to catch up on those long series anymore. There are so many animes that are still on my To-Watch list!

Where have you travel to? Where would you like to go again and which new place would you like to travel to?

I have been to a few states in the USA when I was very young, and London when I studied there for a year. For short travels, I have been to Thailand, Singapore, New Zealand, and Hong Kong. I went to Sydney, Australia most recently for a yaoi and yuri con.

I like the idea of traveling and getting to experience new things, but usually it's the lack of time and budget that stands in my way. Believe it or not, I have never visited Japan before, so I'd like to go there someday. I've also been getting requests to go to Indonesia and Philippines to attend yaoi cons and meet yaoi fans there, so I am considering going there as well. Of course, it's also my dream to attend yaoi con USA if I can. There are just too many places that I want to go to!

Have you organized any yaoi cons before? What do you do at these conventions?

As much as I want to, unfortunately I have never organized a yaoi con before. The most I did was to sponsor a local BL con here in Malaysia. As such, people had mistaken me as the organizer of the event. Maybe in the future, I'd like to do it if the opportunity arises.

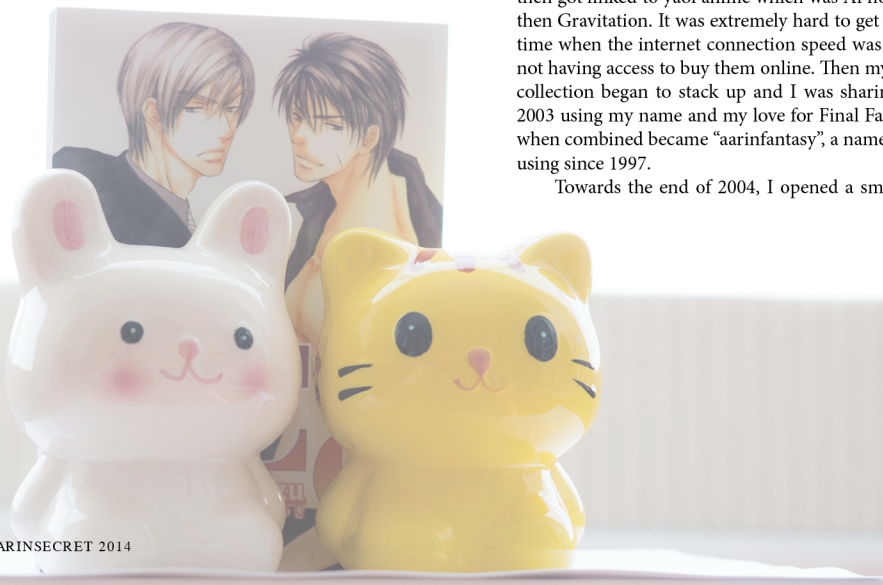
Sometimes I get invited to conventions as a guest. My first time giving a talk was during Room 801 (Australian con), it was quite an experience for me as I wanted to give a good talk but I didn't as I was nervous and feeling ill at the same time. So if there are any opportunities, I'd like to give more talks or have more Q & A sessions with fellow fans, to share our experiences and give recommendations perhaps. This may bring awareness to some yaoi fans and also help me brush up on my communication skills.

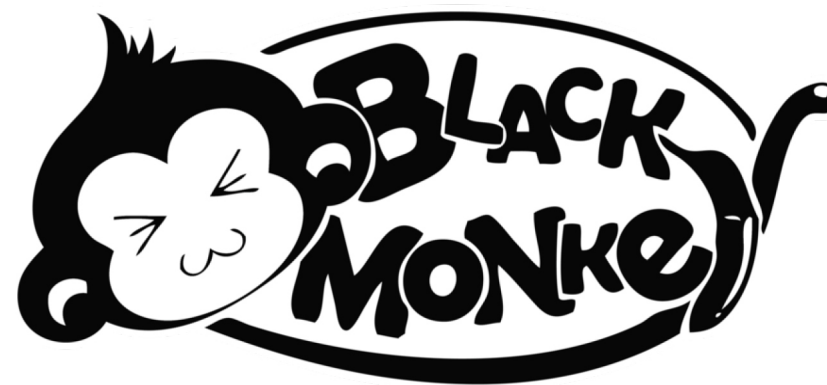
At other times, I requested or offered to go to conventions as part of the AF Media Team. I took time off to visit events that may have yaoi related stuff in it so that I can report on things that people may not have the chance to see or attend. My goal is to inform readers and share my experiences about it. I enjoy doing this as I have such a good time experiencing this with my team, we learned a lot during the whole process.

As for the future of the site...

I have mentioned that social media is taking over and you get a lot of info from there. I myself use social media to communicate and look at updates. So if there are still supporters, AF will stay but I can't say or promise anyone what will become of the site in another few years or so. What I have are some plans that branch off to other things such as a publication or something else other than the site's fansub origins but we will still stick to the yaoi genre.

Someone asked me if I'd like to write about yaoi stuff like fiction or something and my reply is "Yes, I'd like to" though I am not a good writer nor a good artist, but all I have is my imagination and I am hoping that someday, I get to co-operate with a talented artist to bring a story to life.





Mazjojo, 29, male, from Indonesia, is the founder of Black Monkey Pro. He loves drawing and his current favorite illustration softwares are Paint Tool SAI and Adobe Photoshop 7. He enjoys watching anime especially Kuroko no Basuke, Samurai Flamenco, Free!, Saint Seiya, and Attack on Titan.

Q Black Monkey Pro is a BL group that consists of many members. How did it all get started?

It started in 2011 in a friendly circle. My former member Suihara and I collaborated on a yaoi project together called "Brotherly Love". At first we were only doing it for fun, until we got unexpected responses from people and customers wanting more of our works. We have built this circle into a solid group with new talents until now.

Q Can you tell me more about the team behind BMP?

BMP has grown this big over the span of 2+ years and we are spreading all over the world, and each of us has a different job in the team. We have more than 15 members that work as artists or illustrators, production, programmers, distributors, and also in marketing. Most talents come from Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia, Spain, Malaysia, and a lot more!

Q When did you start to draw BL?

I started drawing BL around the end of 2010. I already had the basics on drawing male anatomy before this, and a lot of people prefer my male drawings over my female ones. I really like to serve or give my fans what they want. So I thought, why not go with it? I have friends in my country who taught me about the BL world and surprisingly, it is so interesting, more than I could ever imagine.



Q How do you describe BMP's artwork style?

BMP's style is mainly based on anime and has gotten a lot of influence from many types of anime. We are mostly a hybrid between the bishonen and bara styles. That is what makes our work more enjoyable to both girls and boys.

Q What are the products that people can expect from BMP?

We have visual novels, CG sets, original doujinshis, games, and merchandise from existing projects.

Q What are the things that get you motivated or inspired to draw?

I like watching anime, or even real shows. I am inspired a lot whenever I see a model on TV or even by shows that show bodies or figures.

Q Is there any ultimate goal you want to achieve as an artist?

We want BMP to grow bigger and bigger as a group, be loved by fans, and be able to reach the main worldwide market, including the Japanese market, with our own touch of yaoi!

Mazjojo personal portfolio page:
<http://mazjojo.deviantart.com>

Black Monkey Pro website:
<http://www.blackmonkey-pro.com>

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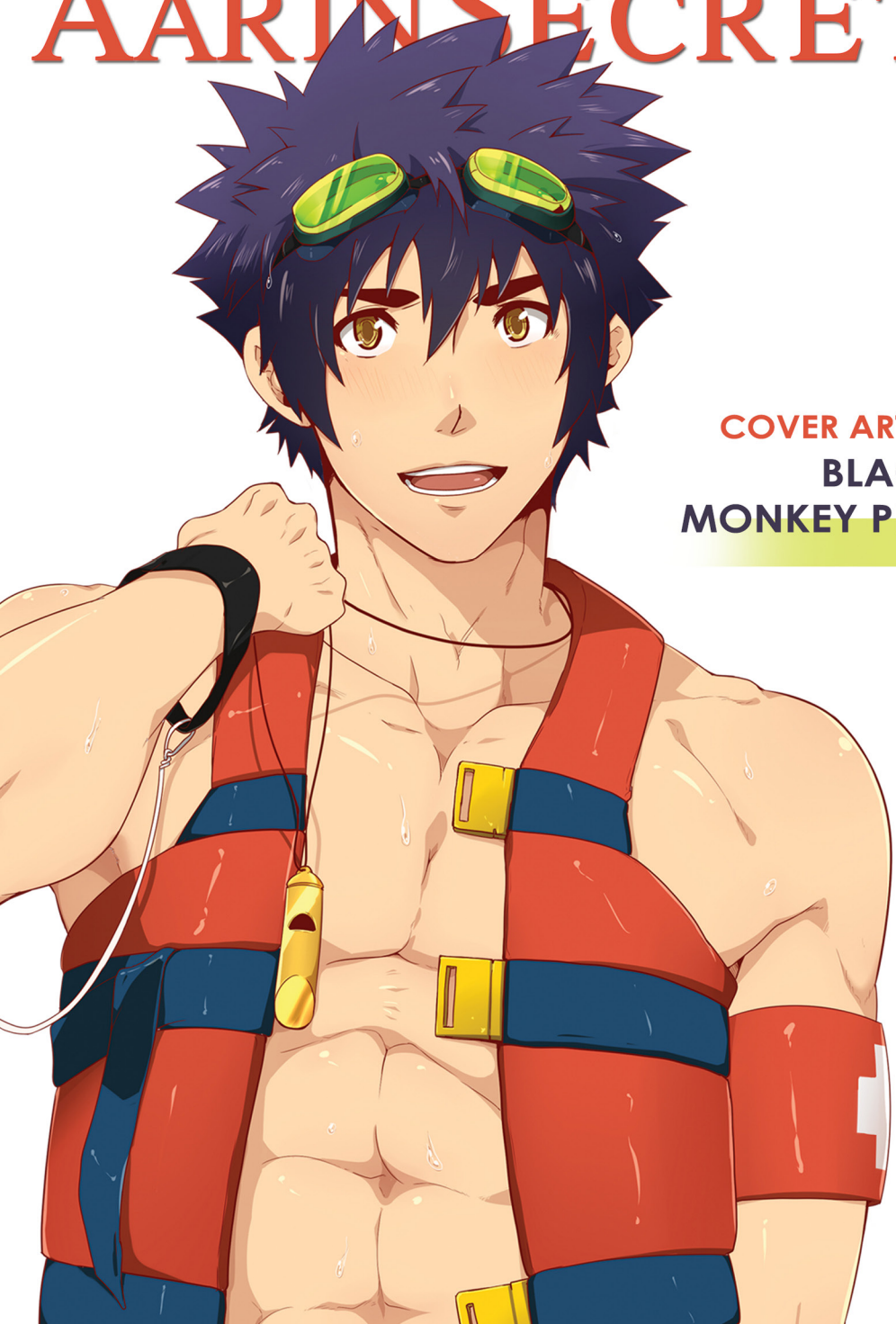
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